

Archery Trade Association \* Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies \* Bear Trust  
International \* Boone and Crockett Club \* Catch A-Dream Foundation \* Congressional  
Sportsmen's Foundation \* Conservation Force \* Dallas Safari Club  
Delta Waterfowl Foundation \* Ducks Unlimited \* Houston Safari Club \* Izaak Walton  
League of America \* Master of Foxhounds Association \* Mule Deer Foundation  
National Shooting Sports Foundation \* National Trappers Association \* National Wild  
Turkey Federation \* North American Bear Foundation \* North American Grouse  
Partnership \* Pheasants Forever \* Quail Unlimited \* Quality Deer Management  
Association \* Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation \* Ruffed Grouse Society \* Shikar Safari  
Club \* Texas Wildlife Association \* The Conservation Fund \* The Wildlife Society  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership \* Whitetails Unlimited  
Wildlife Management Institute

July 27, 2009

Honorable Nick J. Rahall, Chairman  
House Natural Resources Committee  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Doc Hastings, Ranking Member  
House Natural Resources Committee  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Rahall and Congressman Hastings:

The organizations identified on the letterhead represent millions of hunter conservationists and professional biologists and scientists who strongly support HR1916, which would incrementally increase the fee for the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp (aka the "duck stamp"), and make other minor adjustments to the program administration. As you know, the price of the Duck Stamp has not been increased since 1991, the longest time since an increase in the history of the program. We believe that a fee increase is long overdue in order to continue the vitality of this long-standing program to conserve habitats not only for waterfowl but also wading birds and other wetland-dependent fish and wildlife.

We are aware of several amendments that are being considered by Members for offering to HR1916. We respectfully urge you to accept for consideration only those amendments that do not change or diminish, or divert resources away from, the fundamental purpose and integrity of the duck stamp program, which is to secure (through acquisition or easement) wetland habitats for management within the NWR System. The fact that all of the money used from the sale of Duck Stamps has been used for habitat conservation has been the hallmark of the program. These acquisitions require the concurrence of the Governor of the respective state as well as approval from the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission before an acquisition can take place. Our organizations support the reporting of HR1916 (as amended by the Bordallo Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute) out of the Natural Resources Committee; but we appreciate the interest of Members to fully deliberate the bill. Our appeal is to encourage the Committee to report a bill that retains the clear focus and purpose of the duck stamp program.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our perspectives.